



GRAND VIEW UNIVERSITY – STUDENT FINANCIAL PLANNING

Presentation to Legislative Staff. A group of legislative education staffers met recently with Grand View University staff to learn about the new program the University is implementing to reduce student debt through financial education. The program is called GVComplete and consists of two parts:

- Yearly financial counseling, during which students receive a printout with estimated costs for each year at the college and how those costs will be covered (student aid and grants, student loans, and individual/family out-of-pocket). Students participating in the program are guaranteed a fixed tuition increase rate of 2.0% annually for the four years they are enrolled.
- Integrated academic advising to ensure that students are able to graduate in four years.

The financial counseling session includes a worksheet that the student completes, setting a budget for their transportation, clothing, medical care, personal costs, and entertainment expenses. The advising staff provides students with the cost of various options for room and board and an estimate of their earnings based on the number of hours the student plans to work. This allows students to make an informed decision about the full cost of their education, and how to reduce their borrowing.

Effectiveness. Grand View University began the program in the spring of 2014 as an opt-in for their incoming first-year students; approximately half of the class chose to participate. With the pilot group, the University saw a 9.0% increase in retention between the fall and spring semesters and a 17.0% increase from fall of 2014 to the fall of 2015 over the nonparticipating students. In spring 2015, the program was changed to require incoming first-year students to opt out if they did not want to participate. The majority of the class participated. For this class, the staff found a 3.0% higher retention rate than the nonparticipating students.

The University estimates that the first cohort of students will have an average of \$29,586 in debt upon graduation (in 2019), and the second class will have an average of \$29,230 (in 2020). In comparison, the graduating class of 2014 had an average of \$38,160 in debt. To achieve this change, students in the GVComplete program took an average of \$560 in loans in excess of billable costs, while students not participating in the GVComplete program took an average of \$1,262 in excess of billable costs.

Implementation Costs. In order to implement this program, Grand View University incurred additional costs related to database and spreadsheet creation. Additional staff were also needed to supply the one-on-one counseling time for students.

Detailed Information. The [slide presentation](#) and a sample of the [financial planning documents](#) are available on the General Assembly website.

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